

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An imaging method comprising:

imaging a subject and capturing an image of the subject;

adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range;

receiving a user designation regarding a position in the first region within the imaging range;

~~displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region; and~~

setting the first region initially at a first range and at a position within the imaging range, whereby a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range if the ~~position~~ user designation is not received, and upon receiving the ~~position~~ user designation, the center of the first region being located at specified coordinates and the range of the first region being set up is smaller than ~~that of a case that the position designation is not received~~ the first range, and upon receiving a further user designation, returning the center of the first region to the center of the imaging range and the range of the first region to the first range.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A computer readable memory including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform an imaging process, the imaging process comprising:

~~an imaging step for~~ imaging a subject to be imaged and capturing an image of the subject;

~~a focusing step for~~ adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range ~~of the imaging step~~;

~~a reception step for~~ receiving a user designation regarding a position in the first region within the imaging range;

a display step for displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region; and

~~a position setting step for~~ setting the first region initially at a first range and at a position within the imaging range whereby a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range if the ~~position~~ user designation is not received, ~~whereas wherein~~

a center of the first region is located at specified coordinates if the ~~position~~ user designation is received ~~by the reception step~~; and

~~a range setting step sets up~~ the range of the first region being set up whereby, if the ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region set up is smaller than ~~that of~~ a case that the position designation is not received the first range, and upon receiving a further user designation, returning the center of the first region to the center of the imaging range and the range of the first region to the first range.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging means for imaging a subject to be imaged and capturing an image of the subject;

focusing means for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the imaging means;

reception means for receiving a user designation regarding a position at the first region within the imaging range;

~~display means for displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region;~~

position setting means for setting the first region initially at a first range and at a position within the imaging range, whereby a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range ~~if the position designation is not received by the reception means~~, and upon receiving the ~~position~~ user designation, the center of the first region is located at specified coordinates if the position designation is received by the reception means; and

range setting means for setting up a range of the first region in such a way that, if the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception means, the range of the first region set up is smaller than ~~that of a case that the position designation is not received~~ the first range, and upon receiving a further user designation, returning the center of the first region to the center of the imaging range and the range of the first region to the first range.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

display means for displaying the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject by the imaging means.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

initialization means for initializing the setup of the first region and returning the setup from a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception means to a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is not received~~[[;]]~~, wherein:

~~wherein~~ the reception means further receives an instruction to initialize the setup of the first region with a second method, and

the initialization means initialize the setup of the first region based on the instruction received by the reception means.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

the focusing means adjust the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging means take in the still image and if the position setting means set up the position of the first region.

Claim 15 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

prohibition means for prohibiting an adjusting process of the focusing means if the focusing means focus on the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging means takes in the still image.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

exposure adjustment means for adjusting an exposure for a second predetermined region within the imaging range,

wherein the position setting means set up a position of the second region so that a center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set at an

arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the ~~position~~ user designation received by the reception means.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging means for imaging a subject to be imaged and capturing an image of the subject;

focusing means for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the imaging means;

~~display means for displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region;~~

reception means for receiving a user designation regarding a position at the first region within the imaging range;

position setting means for setting the first region initially at a first range and at a position within the imaging range, whereby a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range ~~if the position designation is not received by the reception means~~, and upon receiving the ~~position~~ user designation, the center of the first region is located at specified coordinates if the position designation is received by the reception means;

range setting means for setting up a range of the first region whereby if the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception means, the range of the first region set up is smaller than ~~that of a case that the position designation is not received~~ the first range, and upon receiving a further user designation, returning the center of the first region to the center of the imaging range and the range of the first region to the first range; and

prohibition means for prohibiting adjustment of the focal length by the focusing means,

wherein the focusing means adjust the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging means take in the still image and if the position setting means set up the position of the first region; and

the prohibition means prohibit the adjustment of the focusing means if the focusing means focus on the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging means takes in the still image.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

display means for displaying the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject by the imaging means.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

initialization means for initializing the setup of the first region and returning the setup from a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception means to a state where the position designation is not received;

wherein the reception means further receives an instruction to initialize the setup of the first region with a second method, and

the initialization means initialize the setup of the first region based on the instruction received by the reception means.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 17,  
further comprising:

exposure adjustment means for adjusting an exposure for a second predetermined  
region within the imaging range,

wherein the position setting means set up a position of the second region so that a  
center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set at an  
arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the ~~position~~ user designation received by  
the reception means.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging section for imaging a subject to be imaged and capturing an image of the  
subject;

a focusing section ~~for adjusting~~ configured to adjust a focal length and focusing on the  
subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the  
imaging section;

a reception section ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive a user designation regarding a  
position in the first region within the imaging range;

~~a display section for displaying an autofocus frame corresponding to the first region;~~

a position setting section ~~for setting~~ configured to set the first region initially at a first  
range and at a position within the imaging range, whereby a center of the first region is  
located at a center of the imaging range ~~if the position designation is not received by the  
reception means~~, and upon receiving the ~~position~~ user designation, the center of the first

region is located at specified coordinates if the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception section; and

a range setting section sets up the range of the first region whereby, if the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception section, the range of the first region set up is smaller than ~~that of a case that the position designation is not received~~ the first range, and upon receiving a further user designation, returning the center of the first region to the center of the imaging range and the range of the first region to the first range.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

a display section ~~for displaying~~ configured to display the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject by the imaging section.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising:

an initialization section ~~for initializing~~ configured to initialize the setup of the first region and ~~returning to return~~ the setup from a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is received by the reception section to a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is not received;

wherein the reception section is further receives configured to receive an instruction to initialize the setup of the first region with a second method, and

the initialization section ~~initializes~~ is configured to initialize the setup of the first region based on the instruction received by the reception section.



Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 27,  
further comprising:

an exposure adjustment section ~~for adjusting~~ configured to adjust an exposure for a  
second predetermined region within the imaging range,

wherein the position setting section sets up a position of the second region so that a  
center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set at an  
arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the ~~position~~ user designation received by  
the reception section.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The imaging method according to claim 2, further  
comprising:

displaying the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The imaging method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim  
31, further comprising:

initializing the setup of the first region and returning the setup from a state where the  
~~position~~ user designation is received, to a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is not  
received[[;]], wherein:

~~wherein~~ the received designation further receives an instruction to initialize the setup  
of the first region with a second method, and

the initialization instruction initializes the setup of the first region based on the  
instruction received.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The imaging method according to claim 2, wherein:  
the focusing ~~step~~ adjusts the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging ~~step~~  
takes in the still image and if the ~~position~~ setting step sets up the position of the first region.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The imaging method according to claim 33, further  
comprising:

prohibiting an adjusting process of the focusing means if the focusing ~~step~~ focuses on  
the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging ~~step~~ takes in the still image.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The imaging method according to claim 2, further  
comprising:

adjusting an exposure for a second predetermined region within the imaging range,  
wherein the ~~position~~ setting step sets up a position of the second region so that a  
center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set at an  
arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the ~~position~~ user designation.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer  
executable instructions of claim 3, further comprising:

~~a displaying step for~~ displaying the image obtained by imaging of the subject.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer  
executable instructions, according to claim 36, further comprising:

~~an initialization step for~~ initializing the setup of the first region and returning the setup  
from a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is received, ~~by the reception step during~~  
receiving to a state where the ~~position~~ user designation is not received;

wherein the ~~reception step~~ receiving further receives an instruction to initialize the setup of the first region with a second method, and

the initialization instruction initializes the setup of the first region based on the instruction received ~~by the reception step~~ during receiving.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer executable instructions, according to claim 3, wherein:

the focusing ~~step~~ adjusts the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging ~~step~~ takes in the still image and if the ~~position~~ setting ~~step~~ sets up the position of the first region.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer executable instructions, according to claim 38, further comprising:

~~a prohibition step~~ prohibiting an adjusting process of the focusing means if the focusing ~~step~~ focuses on the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging ~~step~~ takes in the still image.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer executable instructions, according to claim 3, further comprising:

~~an exposure adjustable step for~~ adjusting an exposure for a second predetermined region within the imaging range,

wherein the ~~position~~ setting ~~step~~ sets up a position of the second region so that a center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set at an arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the ~~position~~ user designation received ~~by the reception step~~ during receiving.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The imaging method of claim 2, ~~further comprising~~  
wherein:

if the ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region setup is always smaller than that of the case that the ~~position~~ user designation is not received.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The computer readable memory including computer executable instructions, according to claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

if a ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region setup is always smaller than that of a case that the ~~position~~ user designation is not received

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus of claim 4, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

if the ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region setup is always smaller than that of a case that the ~~position~~ user designation is not received.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus of claim 17, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

if the ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region setup is always smaller than that of a case that the ~~position~~ user designation is not received.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus of claim 27, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

if the ~~position~~ user designation is received, the range of the first region setup is always smaller than that of a case that the ~~position~~ user designation is not received.